

What is claimed is:

1. An ink base for producing pigmented inks having a water base, the ink base comprising:

a drying retarder and a pH adjusting agent;

wherein the drying retarder comprises at least diethylene glycol (DR1), 1,6-hexane diol (DR2), and pentaerythritol (DR3);

wherein the pH adjusting agent (PH) comprises at least one amine;

wherein the ink base comprises at least

diethylene glycol (DR1)	30.0 - 95.5 % by wt.
1,6-hexane diol (DR2)	3.0 - 40.0 % by wt.
pentaerythritol (DR3)	0.01 - 3.0 % by wt. and
amine (PH)	1.5 - 15.0 % by wt.

2. The ink base according to claim 1, wherein the at least one amine has the formula  $N(R_1 R_2 R_3)$ , wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$ , independent from one another, are hydrogen (H), a dimethyl group ( $CH_3$ ) or an ethyl group ( $CH_2CH_3$ ).

3. The ink base according to claim 1, further comprising at least one additional drying retarder (ADR) selected from the group consisting of glycols, pyrrolidones, and glycerin.

4. The ink base according to claim 1, further comprising a salt-free coloring agent.

5. The ink base according claim 4, wherein the coloring agent is a pigment or a pigment preparation.

6. The ink base according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of surfactants, preservatives, and emulsifiers.

7. An ink comprising:  
an ink base according to claim 1;  
coloring agents; and  
water.

8. The ink according to claim 7, further comprising surfactants, preservatives, and emulsifiers.

9. The ink according to claim 6, comprising:  
20.0 - 95.0 % by wt. water (bidistilled) (SOL),  
0.1 - 40.0 % by wt. pigment preparation (COA),  
0.1 - 10.0 % by wt. triethanolamine (PH),  
0.01 - 2.0 % by wt. pentaerythritol (DR3),

0.5 - 10.0 % by wt.	1,6-hexane diol (DR2),
0.2 - 30.0 % by wt.	diethylene glycol (DR1),
0 - 20.0 % by wt.	polymer dispersion (BM),
0.01 - 0.5 % by wt.	preservative (PS),
0 - 2.0 % by wt.	surfactant (SF), and
0 - 30.0 % by wt.	additional drying retarders (ADR).

10. The ink according to claim 7 for inkjet printing or machine-based writing, printing, drawing or marking.